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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Paul Rufo et al.
Serial No.: National Phase of US2004/030813
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FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.